



# **PUBLIC POLICY - 2014 REVIEW**



*Driving San Diego Business*



## Chamber Public Policy – Local Review 2014

### Summary

The Chamber took a position on 28 local initiatives, 3 local ballot measures, 44 state bills, 5 state ballot measures, 2 state regulatory proposals, 4 federal initiatives, and 33 pieces of federal legislation this year. The review is divided into three sections – Local, State, and Federal. Each review is separated into sections based on Public Policy Committee issue areas.

The Chamber took a position on 28 local initiatives and 3 local ballot measures this year.

### Defense, Veterans, and Military Affairs

#### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 6 local initiatives

**Opposed** – 0 initiatives

**Supported** – 6 initiatives

#### Community Initiatives

Supported **Fleet Week San Diego 2014**, which was a huge community event held to honor and celebrate the men and women of the military through public events that entertained and alliances that supported and thanked our heroes. Jerry Sanders was the Honorary Chair of Fleet Week 2014, which included, for the first time, the Big Bay Bash – an event that catered to both military families and the general public at the Broadway Pier. The first 500 military to attend were given free access to the USS Midway, and the event featured free music, children's games, a tour of the U.S. Coast Guard's Stratton, and a live raffle. Fleet Week is an important tradition for San Diego because it gives the public a better understanding of the military and their sacrifice.

#### Local Shipbuilding

Supported the **protection of shipbuilding and ship repair operations and assets in San Diego**, which creates an economic impact to the region of \$3.4 billion and accounts for 3,000 direct jobs and supports 460 suppliers.

#### Military Philanthropy

Supported **Socks for Heroes**, which is a philanthropic organization affiliated with the San Clemente Marine Corps Support Group whose mission is to provide deployed troops with clean socks. The initiative was started by Jim and Carla Hogan, whose son LCPL Donald J. Hogan was killed in Afghanistan. When the Hogans decided to give back in honor of their son, after discussions with hundreds of Marines they discovered that the biggest need when deployed to the Middle East is new socks due to the sand and grit. Since 2011, the Hogans have sent more than 330,000 pairs of socks to our troops fighting in the Middle East.

## **Military Transition**

Supported the **Military Transition Support Project**, an unprecedented year-long collaboration among San Diego's military, government agencies, elected officials, nonprofits, businesses, and philanthropic institutions to develop a comprehensive plan to better coordinate community resources for veterans and to connect those resources to service members as early in the transition process as possible. Central to the MTSP community plan is a web-based portal affiliated with 2-1-1 San Diego that would aggregate employment, education resources, and vetted social service information, and include highly-trained veteran "navigators" to provide personal assistance to those needing additional support. This project is a model for the nation.

## **SPAWAR and Integrated Industries**

Supported the presence of **SPAWAR and SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific (SSCPAC)**, as well as **integrated industries including cyber security and unmanned systems**, which provide 5,000 quality STEM jobs and positively impact another 19,000 jobs in the region.

Supported the **UAS INSIGHT proposal for San Diego to become a UAS Center of Excellence**, as designated by the FAA, which will provide research and development needed to safely integrate systems into the national airspace.

# **Education & Workforce Development**

## **Quick Look**

**Positions Taken** – 3 local initiatives  
**Opposed Legislation** – 0 initiatives  
**Supported Legislation** – 3 initiatives

## **Local Organizations**

Supported **Computers 2 San Diego Kids**, a non-profit organization providing computers to underserved children throughout San Diego. Corporations and individuals can donate used equipment, which is then wiped of all information, loaded with educational programs and given to families at C2SDK events. The Chamber sponsored a six-month computer challenge to encourage members to donate computers, and to date 66 members have pledged devices.

Supported the **Education Synergy Alliance**, an organization working to bring funding to the San Diego region to support Linked Learning, an educational model that prepares secondary students for the workforce through a focus on experiential learning and career technical education.

## **School Programs**

Supported the **County of San Diego Emergency Preparedness Program** and its efforts to incorporate natural disaster and emergency preparedness education into fourth-grade curricula throughout the county.

## Energy & Water

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 5 local initiatives

**Opposed Legislation** – 0 initiatives

**Supported Legislation** – 5 initiatives; 1 approved by City Council

### Energy Projects

Supported **Soitec's CPV Solar Power Projects** in Boulevard. Project aims to construct two CX-M500 modules. The project will have outputs of 80MW and 60MW, respectively, and will serve 54,000 homes. The project estimates a 250,000 ton per year reduction in greenhouse gasses. Soitec will invest \$469 million, create 250 temporary construction jobs and up to 40 permanent jobs. This project will be heard by the County Board of Supervisors in January 2015.

Supported the **City of San Diego's Draft Climate Action Plan** in concept. In concept, specifically the goals set forth for 2020 and 2035, aims to incrementally eliminate half of all GHG emissions and meet 100 percent renewable energy target by 2035. The proposal will keep San Diego on track to meet state mandated targets in 2050. The Climate Action Plan is scheduled to go to City Council in early 2015.

Supported **SDG&E's proposed Sycamore-Penasquitos transmission line**. Project will help SDG&E meet the state's 33 percent renewable energy mandate by integrating clean power into the electric grid.

### Water Projects

Supported the **City of San Diego's Casablanca demonstration project**. Which aims to create an independent wastewater reclamation system for on-site landscape water irrigation and support the San Diego Water Policy Plan.

Supported the **City of San Diego's Pure Water Initiative**. The Pure Water Initiative is the City's 20-year program to provide a safe, reliable and drought-proof drinking water supply. The program is a cost-effective alternative to bringing the Point Loma Wastewater Reclamation Plant into compliance. **On November 18, 2014, City Council approved the Pure Water Project.**

## Healthcare

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 2 local initiatives; 1 local ballot measure

**Opposed Legislation** – 0 initiatives

**Supported Legislation** – 2 initiatives; 2 became law and 1 local ballot measure rejected by voters

### Mental Illness

Supported the **San Diego County Board of Supervisors' proposal to implement California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5270**, which will serve as an additional tool to help the severely mentally ill in our community. **On May 6, 2014 the County Board of Supervisors voted to implement Section 5270.**

## Public Health Regulations

Supported the **City and County of San Diego's proposed E-cigarette Regulations**, which prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in places where tobacco smoking is banned, including beaches, parks, boardwalks, fishing piers, airports, enclosed public spaces, sidewalk cafes, sports venues, and public buildings in unincorporated areas. **On May 20, 2014, the County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the e-cigarette regulations and on July 28, 2014 the City Council also voted to approve the e-cigarette regulations.** City Council included language requiring special permits for businesses that sell e-cigarettes, as well as prohibiting sales from vending machines. The City Council agreed to revisit the issue in three years so they can examine additional public health research and regulations related to e-cigarettes at that time, which the Federal Drug Administration is in the process of adopting.

## Infrastructure, Housing & Land Use

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 9 local initiatives  
**Opposed Legislation** – 0 initiatives  
**Supported Legislation** – 9 initiatives

### Housing/Homelessness

Supported the **Regional Continuum of Care Council** and its efforts to bring increased funding for homeless services to San Diego.

Supported the creation of regulations for **micro apartments**, relatively low-priced accommodations best suited for densely populated areas with a high demand for single-room occupancies, to help address San Diego's affordable housing shortage.

Supported the **Downtown San Diego Partnership's PBID renewal**, also known as the Clean & Safe Program, so it could continue providing services vital to downtown businesses and visitors, including trash removal, power washing, landscaping and beautification, homeless outreach, and graffiti removal.

### Infrastructure

Supported an increase in the **Airport Passenger Facility Charge** to \$8.50 to fund projects at the San Diego Regional International Airport, including Terminal 1 improvements.

Supported Circulate's efforts to implement a **Vision Zero campaign** in San Diego, which aims to increase pedestrian safety through public education and infrastructure improvements, such as increased bike lanes and improved crosswalks.

Supported the **City of San Diego's creation of a permanent FBA Fee Deferral program**, which made permanent a program that allows applicants to defer payment of Facilities Benefit Assessments fees for two years or until request for Final Inspection.

Supported the **2015 Downtown Public Facilities Financing Plan**, which updates the Centre City PFFP, adopted in 2005, and provides for the collection of DIF funds to subsidize public infrastructure in the Downtown Community Plan area.

**Land Use** Supported the **City of San Diego's 9<sup>th</sup> Land Development Code Update**.

**Local Ballot Measure** Supported the **City of Escondido's Measure H**, which would have adopted "The Lakes Specific Plan," a specific plan for development and revitalization of 110 acres on Country Club Lane previously known as the Escondido Country Club. This local measure was rejected by voters in the November 4, 2014 election.

## Legislative and Small Business Advocacy

**Quick Look** **Positions Taken** – 8 local initiatives  
**Opposed Legislation** – 2 local initiatives; 2 ballot measures rejected by voters  
**Supported Legislation** – 3 initiatives; 1 was implemented and 1 became law; 1 ballot measure passed by voters

**Business Improvement Districts** Supported the formation of a **Point Loma Business Improvement District**, which would provide a funding mechanism to be used for an array of community development and promotional purposes, including: creating a directory of local businesses for locals and tourists; creating and/or supporting existing industry-specific websites; creating marketing programs targeting locals and visitors; and/or planning specialty events targeting neighborhood businesses. This BID formation is still moving through the approval process.

**City Process Reforms** Supported the **City of San Diego's Purchasing and Contracting Department Business Practices Reform**, spearheaded by new hire Dennis Gakunga, which addresses the Department's chronic process inefficiencies and increases transparency by allowing department heads to unilaterally approve purchases less than \$25,000 and publish what is purchased. The plan also increases the threshold for purchases that need formal Requests for Proposals. **This reform has already begun to improve unnecessary administrative burdens and ultimately save the city money.**

**Local Ballot Measures** Supported the **City of San Diego's Proposition A**, a measure to amend the City Charter related to elections. **This local measure was passed by voters in the June 3, 2014 election.**

Opposed the **City of San Diego's Propositions B and C**, referendums related to the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update, which would have approved the City Council's plan to restrict maritime-related businesses in the Barrio and threatened the overall economic health of San Diego's shipbuilding and repair industry. **These local measures were both rejected by voters in the June 3, 2014 election.**

**Regulatory Guidance** Supported the **City of San Diego's Mobile Food Truck Ordinance**, which will give food truck owners and operators regulatory guidance as to how, when, and where they can operate by creating a new land use category for mobile food trucks and establish new land use regulations. **On March 18, 2014, the City Council adopted an ordinance to allow mobile food trucks to legally operate in the**

**public right-of-way and on private property.** Specifically, the ordinance allows food trucks to operate (with no City permit required) in the public right-of-way; in industrial and commercial office zones, in most residential and mixed zones with 16 or more dwelling units; on the premises of schools, universities, hospitals, or churches in any zone; for private catering in any zone; and to serve active construction sites in any zone. Operations on private property in most commercial zones and in the downtown community plan area are subject to a ministerial permit.

# Chamber Public Policy – State Review 2014

## Summary

The Chamber took a position on 2 regulatory proposals, 5 ballot measures and 44 state bills this legislative session, of which 17 bills were signed by the Governor.

## Defense, Veterans, and Military Affairs

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 6 bills; 1 ballot measure

**Opposed Legislation** – 0 bills

**Supported Legislation** – 2/6 bills signed by the Governor; 1 ballot measure passed by voters

### Administrative Burdens

Supported **AB 269 (Grove and Patterson): Vote by mail ballots: military or overseas voters**, which would have allowed the vote by mail ballot of a military or overseas voter to arrive up to three days after the election and still be counted, provided that the ballot was postmarked by the United States Postal Service or the Military Postal Service Agency on or before Election Day. This bill died in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Supported **AB 2201 (Chávez): Vehicles: driver's license: selective service**, which would have automatically registered an applicant for an original or renewal driver's license with the federal Selective Service System, if that person was required to be registered under federal law. This bill was placed on the Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File and held under submission.

### Ballot Measures

Supported **Proposition 41: Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act**, which amends the Veterans' Bond Act of 2008 by separating the money as described and authorizing the remaining \$600 million for expenditure by numerous state agencies to provide multifamily housing to veterans pursuant to the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014. Proposition 41 was approved by voters on the June 3, 2014 ballot.

### Veterans' Advocacy

Supported **AB 1557 (Holden): Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges: student member**, which specifies that members of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors should be inclusive and representative of the many demographic groups in the state, reflect diversity of race and gender, and include, among others, disabled persons and veterans. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 20, 2014, and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 496, Statutes of 2014.**

Supported **AB 2098 (Levine): Military personnel: veterans: sentencing: mitigating circumstances**, which requires the court to consider a defendant's status as a veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other forms of trauma when making specified sentencing determinations. **This bill was signed**

**by the Governor on July 21, 2014, and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 163, Statutes of 2014.**

Supported **AB 2703 (Quirk-Silva): County veterans service officers**, which would have authorized the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop an allocation formula to reward outstanding service by county veterans' service officers. This bill was placed on the Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File and held under submission.

Supported **SB 1152 (Anderson): Property taxation: exemptions: veterans' organizations**, which would have extended the application of the "veterans' organization" property tax exemption to real property owned by certain veterans' organizations and used for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes, as specified. This bill was placed on the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation Suspense File and held under submission.

## Education and Workforce Development

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 7 bills

**Opposed Legislation** – 0 bills

**Supported Legislation** – 5/7 bills signed by the Governor

### Higher Education

Supported **SB 174 (De León): Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program**, which provides for the use of funds from the College Access Tax Credit Fund to increase Cal Grant B access awards up to a maximum of \$5,000 per award per academic year. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 16, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 363, Statutes of 2014.**

Supported **SB 798 (De León): Income taxes: credits: contributions to education funds**, which allows a credit, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, and before January 1, 2017, based on the taxpayer's contribution to a newly established College Access Tax Credit Fund. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 16, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 367, Statutes of 2014.**

Supported **SB 850 (Block): Public postsecondary education: community college districts: baccalaureate degree pilot program**, which authorizes 15 community colleges to establish one baccalaureate degree pilot program in a subject area unavailable at a four-year institution and in which unmet workforce needs exist in the local community. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 28, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014.**

Supported **SB 1022 (Huff): Public postsecondary education: labor market outcome information**, which requires the California State University system, and requests the University of California, to publicly provide labor market information relating to the graduates of their undergraduate programs, and authorizes the California State University system and the University of California to publicly provide

labor market outcome information relating to the graduates of their graduate programs. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 17, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 394, Statutes of 2014.**

Supported **SB 1425 (Block) Community colleges: degree audit system**, which would have established a degree-tracking system to provide community college students with real-time information about their progress toward a degree or certificate. This bill was held on the Assembly Appropriations Suspense File.

## Secondary Education

Supported **AB 1451 (Holden): Public schools: concurrent enrollment in secondary school and community college**, which would have authorized the governing board of a school district to enter into a formal concurrent enrollment partnership agreement with a community college district located within its immediate service area. This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## STEM Education

Supported **AB 1764 (Olsen/Buchanan): School curriculum: mathematics: computer science**, which authorizes a school district to award a student up to one mathematics course credit for successful completion of an approved computer science course. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 888, Statutes of 2014.**

# Energy & Water

## Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 4 bills; 1 Proposition

**Opposed Legislation** – 1 bill stopped or amended to remove opposition

**Supported Legislation** – 1/3 bills signed by the Governor; 1 Proposition passed by voters

## Drought Relief

Supported **Proposition 1**, which, upon voter approval, would enact the **Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (AB 1471)**. If approved, the measure would authorize \$7.12 billion in general obligation bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects, such as surface and groundwater storage; ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration; drinking water protection; water supply management; water recycling and advanced water treatment technology; and flood control. It would also reallocate \$425 million of unused bond authority from prior water bond acts. This proposition was approved by voters on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

## Energy Supply & Reliability

Supported **AB 1763 (Perea): State energy plan for 2030 and 2050**, which would have required the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to develop a state energy plan for 2030 and 2050 that promotes economic growth and ensures reliable, sustainable and affordable energy resources, and complements air quality; water quality; climate change; energy efficiency; and renewable energy resource goals. This bill was held in

the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee at the author's request.

Supported **AB 2145 (Bradford): Electricity: community choice aggregation**, which would have restricted the expansion of a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) to a geographic area of three contiguous counties and would have required CCA customer solicitations and consumer communications to include the electric supply rates for customers joining a CCA. This bill was held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Opposed **SB 1139 (Hueso): California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program**, which would have required each retail seller of electricity to procure a proportionate share, as determined by the California Public Utilities Commission, of a statewide total of 500 megawatts of geothermal energy. This bill was held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

## Public Safety

Supported **SB 1395 (Block): Public beaches: inspection for contaminants**, which authorizes the Department of Public Health to allow local health officers to use specified alternative beach water quality tests under certain conditions, allowing beaches to reopen for use sooner. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 928, Statutes of 2014.**

## Healthcare

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 11 bills; 3 ballot measures

**Opposed Legislation** – 2/3 bills stopped or amended to remove opposition; 2/2 ballot measures rejected by voters

**Supported Legislation** – 5/8 bills signed by the Governor; 1/1 ballot measure failed to qualify for ballot

### Access to Care

Supported **AB 1917 (Gordon): Outpatient prescription drugs: cost-sharing** if amended, which would have established limits on the copayment for a covered outpatient prescription drug for specific monetary amounts of individual prescriptions. Amendments to narrowly tailor this bill to exclude vanity drugs and focus on chronic conditions were not taken by the author. This bill was ordered to the inactive file.

Supported **AB 1962 (Skinner): Dental plans: medical loss ratios: reports**, which requires health plans and insurers that issue, sell, renew, or offer specialized dental plans or policies to file an annual report with appropriate state regulators that is organized by group and product type and contains the same information required to be reported by health plans and insurers under the ACA. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 25, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 567, Statutes of 2014.**

### Administrative Burden

Opposed **SB 1182 (Leno): Health care coverage: claims data**, which would have required health plans and insurers to share

specified data with large group purchasers that have 1,000 or more enrollees or that are multiemployer trusts. Opposition removed due to August 27, 2014 amendments. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 25, 2014, and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 577, Statutes of 2014.**

## **Ballot Measures**

Opposed **Proposition 45: Insurance Rate Public Justification and Accountability Act**, which would require that home, health and auto insurance providers disclose and justify their rates to a commissioner before the rates can take effect. This proposition was rejected by voters on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

Opposed **Proposition 46: Medical Malpractice Lawsuits Cap and Drug Testing of Doctors**, which would increase MICRA's \$250,000 current cap on speculative, non-economic damages to roughly \$1.1 million. The measure would also require drug and alcohol testing of doctors and reporting of a positive test to the California Medical Board. If a positive test is reported, the Board is required to suspend the doctor pending investigation and take disciplinary action if the doctor was impaired while on duty. Additionally, doctors would also be required to report any other doctor suspected of drug or alcohol impairment or medical negligence. Health care practitioners would also be required to consult a state prescription drug database before prescribing certain controlled substances. This proposition was rejected by voters on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

Supported the **Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act of 2014**, which would have extended a hospital quality assurance fee program for two additional years and prohibited the State Legislature and the Governor from imposing Medi-Cal fees or taxes on hospitals unless the funding and matching federal funds were used to pay for hospital care provided to Medi-Cal patients. The Act failed to qualify for the November 2014 ballot due to a lack of valid signatures.

## **Employer Mandate**

Opposed **AB 1952 (Pan): Nonprofit hospitals: charity care**, which would have imposed a one-size-fits-all charity care mandate across all diverse communities in California and denied hospitals the flexibility to design charity care and broader community benefit programs to meet the unique needs of the populations they serve. This bill was held on the Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File.

## **Excessive Regulations**

Opposed **AB 503 (Wieckowski and Bonta): Health facilities: community benefits**, which would have implemented further regulation leading to a loss in productivity of community benefit programs due to the bill's limiting of what qualifies as a community benefit. This bill was placed on the Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File and held under submission.

## **Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly**

Supported **AB 1436 (Waldron): Community care facilities**, which would have directed California to keep up with modern technology and require the State Department of Social Services to post all inspection reports, consultation reports, lists of deficiencies, appeals and plans for correction on the department's website. This

*bill was placed on the Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File and held under submission.*

*Supported **AB 1454 (Calderon): Care facilities: regulatory visits**, which would have required the State Department of Social Services to increase the frequency of unannounced licensing visits from at least once every five years to annually. This bill was placed on the Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File and held under submission.*

*Supported **AB 1523 (Atkins and Weber): Residential care facilities for the elderly: liability insurance**, which requires all RCFEs to acquire liability insurance to cover injury to residents and guests in the amount of at least \$1 million per occurrence and \$3 million in total or a bond in the amount of \$3 million. **This bill was signed by the Governor on August 15, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 205, Statutes of 2014.***

*Supported **AB 1570 (Chesbro): Residential care facilities for the elderly**, which increases training requirements for licensees and staff of RCFEs. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 28, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 698, Statutes of 2014.***

*Supported **AB 1571 (Eggman): Residential care facilities for the elderly: licensing and regulation**, which would have expanded the scope of information that prospective RCFE licensees must provide to the State Department of Social Services to include the names and license numbers of other facilities owned, managed, or operated by the same licensee, as well as other information on owners of record in the real estate. This bill was placed on the Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File and held under submission.*

*Supported **AB 1572 (Eggman): Residential care facilities for the elderly: resident and family councils**, which requires RCFEs to assist residents in establishing and maintaining resident councils and family councils, the existence of which can positively influence the quality of care in RCFEs by offering a forum to enhance communications with facility staff and assist with identifying and addressing facility problems. **This bill was signed by the Governor on July 23, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 177, Statutes of 2014.***

## Infrastructure, Housing & Land Use

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 2 bills

**Opposed Legislation** – 1 bill stopped or amended to remove opposition

**Supported Legislation** – 1 bill signed by the Governor

### Construction Industry

*Opposed **SB 1270 (Pavley): Surface mining operations**, unless amended. This bill would have prohibited a person from conducting surface mining operations unless any required amendments to the reclamation plan were approved and financial assurances were*

approved and adjusted annually. The bill would have made the lead agency or the State Mine Inspector responsible for reviewing and approving financial assurances. By imposing additional duties on lead agencies, this bill would have imposed a state-mandated local program. This bill was held on the Senate Appropriations Suspense File.

## **Public Safety Infrastructure**

Supported **AB 2149 (Atkins): The Local Agency Public Construction Act: County of San Diego: exemption**, which provides that provisions of the act applicable to public works contracts awarded by counties do not apply to a contract entered into by the County of San Diego with a private entity for the delivery of a regional communications system and any related infrastructure to be used by public safety agencies and emergency responders located in the Counties of Imperial and San Diego. **This bill was signed by the Governor on June 23, 2014 and Chaptered by Secretary of State as Chapter 45, Statutes of 2014.**

## **Legislative and Small Business Advocacy**

### **Quick Look**

**Positions Taken** – 14 bills and 2 state regulatory proposals  
**Opposed Legislation** – 4/4 bills stopped or amended to remove opposition; 2 state regulatory proposals in process  
**Supported Legislation** – 3/10 bills signed by the Governor

### **Employer Burdens**

Opposed **AB 1634 (Skinner): Occupational safety and health: violations**, which would have provided that any appeal of an employer health and safety citation that is classified and cited as a serious violation, a repeat serious violation, or a willful violation cannot stay the abatement dates unless the Division of Occupational Safety and Health determines that a stay of the abatement will not adversely impact the health and safety of employees. Opposition was removed due to August 21, 2014 amendments, which give employers more opportunities to abate violations for modification of civil penalties. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 20, 2014, and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 497, Statutes of 2014.**

Supported **AB 2095 (Wagner): Employee compensation: itemized statements**, which would have established a two-way fee shifting structure ("prevailing-plaintiff standard") for certain claims relating to itemized wage statements by authorizing an employer to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs from an employee for specified claims of failure to provide an accurate itemized wage statement, where the employer is the prevailing party and the court determines that the action was brought in bad faith. This bill died in the Assembly Committee on Judiciary.

Opposed **AB 2140 (Bloom): Marine mammals: protection of orcas: unlawful activities**, which would have made it unlawful to hold in captivity, or use, an orca for performance or entertainment purposes, or to capture, import, export, or breed an orca in captivity. This bill was retained for further study by the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife.

Supported **AB 2361 (Jones): Proposition 65: enforcement**, which would have prohibited any person from bringing a Proposition 65 enforcement action against a company that employs 25 people or less for failure to provide a warning for an exposure to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity, in violation of Proposition 65, unless certain conditions are met. This bill died in the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials.

Supported **AB 2688 (Brown): Employment: violations: good faith defense**, which would have provided an employer defense against prosecution for alleged violations of certain specified labor laws. This bill was held in the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment.

Supported **SB 1295 (Block): Trespass: requests for law enforcement assistance**, which extends from six months to a period not to exceed 12 months, the time in which a property owner may authorize a peace officer to arrest a trespasser on private property that is closed to the public and posted as being closed, without the owner of the property being present; and provides that a request for assistance shall expire upon transfer of ownership of the property or upon change of the person in lawful possession. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 16, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 373, Statutes of 2014.**

Opposed **SB 1351 (Hill): Payment cards**, which would have implemented a technology mandate by requiring the issuance and acceptance of credit and debit cards equipped with microchips until January 1, 2020. This bill was ordered to the inactive file.

## **Family Businesses**

Supported **AB 1260 (Medina): California family owned business**, which would have created a formal definition for a "California family owned business" in order to facilitate better data collection on the contribution that family owned businesses make to the California economy, and perhaps aid more direct efforts to support and promote family owned businesses in the state. This bill passed the State Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor on September 29, 2014.

## **Public/Private Partnerships**

Supported **SB 593 (Lieu): Social impact partnerships: pilot program**, which would have established a Social Impact Partnership Pilot Program, which is a financing mechanism that offers government a way to partner with the non-profit and private sector to spur innovation in social programs with specific measurable goals. This bill passed the State Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor on September 29, 2014.

## **Regulatory Proposals**

Joined the California Chamber of Commerce and a broad coalition of state business leaders to submit comments regarding the **California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's proposed changes to Proposition 65**, related to warning regulations. These efforts are ongoing.

*Joined the California Chamber of Commerce and a broad coalition of state business leaders to submit comments regarding the **California Division of Occupational Safety and Health's proposed changes to heat illness regulations**. These efforts are ongoing.*

## **Small Businesses**

*Supported **AB 674 (Quirk-Silva): Microenterprise**, which expands the definition of "microenterprise" to include a greater number of small businesses, providing more businesses with access to capital and encouraging small business growth. **This bill was signed by the Governor on July 9, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 101, Statutes of 2014.***

*Supported **SB 1401 (Block): Alcoholic beverages**, which would have authorized the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to hire six additional full-time staff to its trade enforcement unit and make it explicit that the ABC has the authority to investigate violations relating to beer price posting and marketing regulations and provisions relating to labeling and containers. This bill died in the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization.*

## **Taxation**

*Supported **AB 1839 (Bocanegra and Gatto): Income taxes: qualified motion pictures**, which creates a tax credit for the production of qualified motion pictures in California for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, and authorizes the California Film Commission to administer the program and allocate the tax credits, subject to a \$230 million cap in the first year (2015-16) and \$330 million dollar aggregate annual cap for each fiscal year from the 2016-17 fiscal year through and including the 2019-20 fiscal year. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 18, 2014 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State as Chapter 413, Statutes of 2014.***

*Supported **AB 1999 (Atkins): Personal income and corporation taxes: credit: rehabilitation**, which would have allowed a temporary income tax credit for qualified costs paid or incurred by a taxpayer in rehabilitation of a certified historic structure, as defined ("the Historic Preservation Tax Credit"), in modified conformity with the federal income tax laws, subject to an aggregate annual cap of \$50 million. This bill passed the State Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor on September 29, 2014.*

*Opposed **SB 1017 (Evans): Education finance: oil and gas severance tax**, which would have imposed a severance tax on the extraction of oil and natural gas. This bill was placed on the Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File and held under submission.*

# Chamber Public Policy – Federal Review 2014

## Summary

The Chamber took a position on 33 pieces of federal legislation and 4 federal initiatives this session.

## Defense, Veterans, and Military Affairs

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 10 bills

**Opposed Legislation** – 0 bills

**Supported Legislation** – 10 bills currently pending

### Administrative Burdens

Supported **H.R.3576 (McCarthy): Safeguarding Elections for our Nation's Troops through Reforms and Improvements (SENTRI) Act**, which would improve the voting process for military and overseas voters by ensuring that absentee ballot requests are valid for one full year and that military voters who move are afforded greater opportunity to change their mailing address to ensure their absentee ballot gets to the correct location. On January 24, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

### Business Incentives to Hire Veterans

Supported **H.R.5563 (Cardenas): Honoring the Hiring of Heroes Act**, which would direct the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to jointly establish a program to award special recognition to employers for veteran-friendly employment practices and, in coordination with the Secretaries of Defense and Commerce, to establish criteria for determining recipients of such awards. On November 17, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

### Military Families

Supported **H.R.2933 (Davis): Helping Military Children Succeed in Schools Act**, which would help military children succeed academically by providing educators with access to reliable data on the academics of those students, enabling schools and educators to identify areas of concern, develop best practices, and implement targeted solutions to assist military-connected students' access to education. On September 13, 2013 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

### Veteran and Reservist Education

Supported **H.R.357 (Miller): GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2014**, which would increase post-9/11 veterans' access to higher education by requiring colleges to charge veterans the in-state tuition rates, regardless of whether they meet the existing in-state tuition residency requirements. This bill passed the House on February 3, 2014 with a vote of 390 – 0. On February 4, 2014, this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Supported **H.R.5589 (Frankel): Veteran Education Empowerment Act**, which would help veteran students transition from the military to student life and network with other students by directing the Secretary of Education to award four-year grants to

*institutions of higher learning to establish, maintain, and improve a veterans' service center. On November 17, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.*

*Supported **H.R.5676 (Kirkpatrick): Guard and Reserve Academic Protection Act**, which would help reservists keep their educational goals on track, despite any absences due to military training, by ensuring that members of a military reserve component who are pursuing a course of education using educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are accommodated by the institution of higher learning for an absence caused by performing certain training. On October 28, 2014 the bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.*

#### **Veterans' Healthcare**

*Supported **H.R.3521 (Miller): Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act of 2013**, which would improve veterans' access to local medical services by providing additional funding in the amount of \$240 million for VA-leased, community-based outpatient clinics. This bill passed the House on December 10, 2013 with a vote of 346 – 1. On December 20, 2013, this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*

*Supported **S.2930 (McCain): Clay Hunt SAV Act**, which would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to provide for an evaluation of the mental health care and suicide prevention programs of DoD and the VA, as well as provide for a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who serve with the Veterans' Health Administration of the VA. On November 17, 2014 this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*

#### **Veterans' Retirement Benefits**

*Supported **H.R.3469 (Issa): SERV Act**, which would clarify who is identified as a military veteran in order to reduce and eliminate fraud committed by individuals with false claims to veterans' benefits. On November 18, 2013 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.*

*Supported sections in **H.R.3801 (Issa): To repeal the reductions in military retirement benefits made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and to authorize the United States Postal Service to implement a modified Saturday delivery schedule**, which would repeal the reductions to military retirement benefits approved under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and allow the USPS to modify its Saturday mail delivery service. On January 24, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Military Personnel.*

#### **Washington, D.C. 2014 Meetings**

*Met with **Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition Sean Stackley** at the Pentagon.*

*Met with **Navy Rear Admiral C. Forrest Faison III, Deputy Surgeon General, Deputy Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery** at the Pentagon.*

Met with **Chief Deputy Whip Patrick McHenry** to discuss defense issues.

Met with the **Office of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and the Environment Dennis V. McGinn** at the Pentagon.

Met with **Major General Juan Ayala, Commander, Marine Corps Installation Command, and Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics** at the Pentagon.

Co-hosted a Congressional Briefing with **Congressman Scott Peters and 2-1-1 San Diego** to discuss San Diego's Military Transition Support Project.

Met with **Vice Admiral William D. French, Commander, Navy Installations** at the Navy Yard.

Met with **Andreas Mueller, Chief of Federal Policy for the California Military Department.**

Met with the **Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein** to discuss unmanned systems opportunities for California and other military policy issues.

Met with Military and Veterans' Affairs Staffer Porter Jones from the **Office of Congressman Darrell Issa.**

Met with Military Liaison Morgan Jones from the **Office of Congressman Scott Peters.**

Met with Senior Legislative Assistant LJ Govoni from the **Office of Congressman David Jolly** to discuss veterans' policy issues and Congressman Jolly's role as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Met with the **Office of Congressman Buck McKeon** to discuss military and defense policy issues and Congressman McKeon's role as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Met with with **Staff Lead for the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee Dave Sienicki and Professional Staff Member for the House Armed Services Committee Brian Garrett.**

## Education and Workforce Development

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 4 bills

**Opposed Legislation** – 0 bills

**Supported Legislation** – 3/4 bills currently pending

<b>Elementary &amp; Secondary Education</b>	Supported <b>Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act</b> , which attempts to bridge achievement gaps between students by emphasizing equal access to education for all children. This bill was not reauthorized this session.
<b>Higher Education</b>	<p>Supported reauthorization of the <b>Higher Education Act of 1965</b>, which was intended to strengthen the educational resources of U.S. colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education. The Act was not reauthorized this session.</p> <p>Supported <b>S.1066 (Gillibrand), the Federal Student Loan Refinancing Act</b>, which would set interest rates for student loans at 4 percent or lower depending on the weighted average of the consolidated loans and other beneficial adjustments. On May 23, 2013 this bill was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.</p> <p>Supported <b>H.R.4719 (Reed), The America Gives More Act</b>, which would make permanent a tax credit that expired in December 2013 that allowed individuals 70.5 or older to make gifts from IRAs to charities, non-profits, foundations and schools without penalty. On July 23, 2014 this bill was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.</p>
<b>Washington, D.C. 2014 Meetings</b>	<p>Hosted a panel featuring <b>Dr. Bob Brower; Microsoft Director of Education and Policy Programs Allyson Knox; Senator Marty Block; Camsie McAdams, Deputy Director, STEM, Department of Education; and Carolyn Henrich, UC Washington</b> to discuss STEM education.</p> <p>Met with <b>Jamie Studley, Deputy Under Secretary of Education and Steven Means, Special Assistant for Early Learning of the Department of Education</b> to discuss education policy issues.</p> <p>Met with Professional Staff Member Rosemary Lahasky of the <b>House Committee on Education and the Workforce</b> to discuss education and workforce development policy issues.</p> <p>Met with <b>Congressman Mark Takano</b> to discuss education and workforce development policy issues and discuss Congressman Takano's role as a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.</p> <p>Met with the <b>Office of Congressman Duncan Hunter</b> to discuss education policy issues.</p>

## Energy & Water

<b>Quick Look</b>	<p><b>Positions Taken</b> – 0 bills and 3 federal initiatives</p> <p><b>Opposed Legislation</b> – 0 bills</p> <p><b>Supported Legislation</b> – 3 initiatives currently pending</p>
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<b>Energy Independence</b>	Supported <b>incentivizing the expansion of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure</b> in order to reduce U.S. reliance on petroleum and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Federal policies should support a regulatory structure that encourages public and private investment in essential energy infrastructure.
	Supported <b>expanding tax credits and subsidies for programs to increase energy efficiency and independence</b> by increasing funding for programs that diversify our energy sources; promoting energy efficiency in consumer products and manufacturing; and investing in emerging technologies.
<b>National Renewable Portfolio Standard</b>	Supported <b>enacting a National Renewable Portfolio Standard</b> to provide states with a mechanism to increase renewable energy generation using a cost-effective, market-based approach that is administratively efficient.
<b>Washington, D.C. 2014 Meetings</b>	Met with <b>Office of Majority Whip Steve Scalise</b> to discuss energy policy issues.
	Met with <b>Alice Madden, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and External Affairs and Judith Kargbo, External Affairs of the Department of Energy</b> to discuss energy policy issues.
	Met with the <b>Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski</b> to discuss energy and water policy issues.
	Met with the <b>Office of Congressman Bob Goodlatte</b> to discuss energy and water policy issues and discuss Congressman Goodlatte's role as Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture.
	Met with the <b>Office of Senator Barbara Boxer</b> to discuss energy policy issues.
	Met with <b>Congressman Tom McClintock</b> to discuss water policy issues.
	Hosted a panel featuring <b>Harlan Kelly, General Manager, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; Environmental Protection Agency staff; Mayor Kevin Faulconer; Halla Razak, Director of Public Utilities, City of San Diego; Dennis Cushman, Assistant General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority; and Congressman Scott Peters</b> to discuss water policy.

## Healthcare

<b>Quick Look</b>	<b>Positions Taken</b> – 13 bills and 1 federal Task Force <b>Opposed Legislation</b> – 0 bills <b>Supported Legislation</b> – 13 bills currently pending and 1 Task Force formed
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## Access to Care

Supported **S.2694 (Brown): Ensuring Access to Primary Care for Women and Children Act**, which would benefit family physicians, internal medicine providers, pediatricians, related internal medicine and pediatric subspecialty providers, and immunization providers by extending payment parity for Medicaid primary care rates for two additional years and adding obstetrician-gynecologist primary care services, increasing patients' access to care since extending this provision creates incentives for physicians to remain in the Medicaid program and/or increase the number of Medi-Cal patients they are able to treat. On July 30, 2014 this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

## Affordable Care Act Guidance

Supported **H.R.1920 (Lewis): DSH Reduction Relief Act of 2013**, which is the first half of a legislative package that would help safety-net hospitals offset the cost of providing care to low-income and underserved individuals by delaying ACA-mandated Medicaid and Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program cuts for two years. On May 10, 2013 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.

Supported **H.R.4188 (Renacci): Establishing Beneficiary Equity in the Hospital Readmission Program Act**, which would improve the fairness of the current ACA readmissions formula for hospital performance and penalties by ensuring that hospital performance improvement efforts are focused on readmissions that are preventable, while maintaining an incentive for all hospitals to reduce unnecessary readmissions. On March 11, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Supported **S.1555 (Wicker): DSH Reduction Relief Act of 2013**, which is the second half of a legislative package that would help safety-net hospitals offset the cost of providing care to low-income and underserved individuals by delaying ACA-mandated Medicaid and Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program cuts for two years. On September 26, 2013 this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Supported **S.2434 (Franken): Family Coverage Act**, which would fix the "family glitch" by defining affordable job-based coverage based on what is affordable for a family, not just an individual employee. On June 4, 2014 this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

## Healthcare Personnel

Supported **H.R.2131 (Issa): SKILLS Visa Act**, which would assist in the shortage of medical personnel by doubling the number of J-1 physician visa waiver positions in California. On June 27, 2013 the House Judiciary voted to report the bill to the House for consideration.

Supported **S.744 (Schumer): Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act**, which would increase healthcare personnel and access to services by expanding the J-1 visa program to ease the immigration process for physicians, their employers, and graduate medical education programs; expediting green cards for physicians who serve federal Department

of Health and Human Services-designated shortage areas or qualifying patient populations for five years; increasing the annual cap on all categories of immigrants who qualify under the H1-B visa program for highly-skilled workers; and eliminating specific per-country annual visa limits since many highly-trained medical graduates cannot obtain a visa due only to that limit. This bill passed the Senate on June 27, 2013 with a vote of 68 – 32 and has not yet been referred to the House.

## **Mental Health**

Supported **H.R.3717 (Murphy): Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013**, which would help families in mental health crisis by providing pilot funds for states that want to set up Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs; preserving enough psychiatric hospital beds for patients with serious mental illness who need them; creating an exemption from patient confidentiality laws in HIPAA and FERPA so caregivers can receive important information about a diagnosis, treatment or prognosis if that information is needed for health, safety, or welfare; ensuring mentally ill patients are not denied access to the best medications and treatment; training police to effectively attend to mentally ill people; establishing Mental Health Courts; and allocating resources for suicide prevention. On January 27, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Supported **H.R.4574 (Barber): Strengthening Mental Health in Our Communities Act of 2014**, which would increase access to community-based mental health services and strengthen our mental health system by requiring more from existing programs and providing benchmarks for better outcomes for individuals and families impacted by mental illness. On July 21, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

## **Sustainable Growth Rate Fix**

Supported **H.R.4015 (Burgess): SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014**, which is the first half of a legislative package that would increase patients' access to care, provide stability, allow more physicians to remain in practice, and attract new physicians to California by fixing the Medicare payment system and reforming the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). This bill passed the House on March 14, 2014 with a vote of 238 – 181 and was referred to the Senate.

Supported **S.2000 (Baucus): SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014**, which is the second half of a legislative package that would increase patients' access to care, provide stability, allow more physicians to remain in practice, and attract new physicians to California by fixing the Medicare payment system and reforming the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). On February 6, 2014, this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

## **Telehealth**

Supported **H.R.3507 (Peters): 21<sup>st</sup> Century Care for Military and Veterans Act**, which would expand healthcare coverage for active-duty military, their dependents, retirees, and veterans by

*establishing and expanding reimbursement policies covering the use of telehealth services, including essential mental health monitoring under TRICARE and the Department of Veterans Affairs. On January 24, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Military Personnel.*

*Supported **H.R.3577 (Peters): To establish the Commission on Health Care Savings through Innovative Wireless Technologies**, which would pave the way for a smarter way to deliver healthcare through the increased use of wireless technologies by creating a commission to inventory existing data, examining the cost savings that can be achieved by increasing the use of wireless health technologies, and developing a comprehensive strategy for integrating these technologies into federal healthcare programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. On November 22, 2013 this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.*

*Supported the **Federal Communications Commission's CONNECT2HEALTHFCC Task Force**, which aims to bring together the expertise of the FCC on the critical intersection of broadband, advanced technology, and health to accelerate the adoption of healthcare technologies. The Task Force is currently holding a series of roundtables, conferences and town hall meetings outside Washington, D.C. as part of its "Beyond the Beltway Series" to leverage broadband technologies and next-generation communications services to improve access to healthcare services regardless of socio-economic background or geographical location.*

#### **Washington, D.C. 2014 Meetings**

*Met with **Chief of Staff Vicki Middleton and Legislative Assistant Reed Linsk from the Office of Congressman Duncan Hunter** to discuss healthcare policy issues.*

*Met with **Sean Cavanaugh, Deputy Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** to discuss multiple healthcare policy issues, including a fix for the Sustainable Growth Rate.*

*Met with **Professional Staff Member for the U.S. Senate HELP Subcommittee on Children and Families Elizabeth Schwartz from the Office of Senator Michael Enzi** to discuss healthcare policy issues and the Senator's role as a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

*Co-hosted a panel with **Congressman Scott Peters** featuring **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Director of the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth for the Office of Rural Health Policy Sherilyn Pruitt, Bipartisan Policy Center Director of Health Innovation Janet M. Marchibroda, and the Institute for e-Health Policy Executive Director Neal Neuberger** to discuss telehealth and healthcare innovation.*

*Met with **Healthcare Staffer Veronica Wong from the Office of Congressman Darrell Issa.***

Met with the **Office of Congressman Buck McKeon** to discuss veterans' healthcare issues and Congressman McKeon's role as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Met with **Pam Hyde, Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** to discuss mental health initiatives.

## Infrastructure, Housing & Land Use

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 1 bill

**Opposed Legislation** – 0 bills

**Supported Legislation** – 1 bill currently pending

**Infrastructure Financing** Supported **H.R. 2084 (Peters): Partnership to Build America Act of 2013**, which would establish the American Infrastructure Fund (AIF) as a wholly-owned government corporation to provide bond guarantees and make loans to state and local governments and non-profit infrastructure providers for transportation, energy, water communications, or educational facility infrastructure projects. On September 4, 2013, this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

### Washington, D.C. 2014 Meetings

Met with **Senator John Walsh** to discuss transportation policy issues and discuss Senator Walsh's role as a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Met with **Chief of Staff Vicki Middleton and Legislative Assistant Reed Linsk from the Office of Congressman Duncan Hunter** to discuss transportation policy issues.

Co-hosted a panel with Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney featuring **Gary Gallegos, Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez, HDR Engineering Senior Economist Alejandro Solis, Robert Shuster, and Federal Highway Administration Acting Administrator Gregory Nadeau** to discuss transportation.

Met with **Senior Legislative Assistant LJ Govoni from the Office of Congressman David Jolly** to discuss transportation policy issues and discuss Congressman Jolly's role as a member of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure.

Met with the **Office of Congressman Darrel Issa** to discuss transportation policy issues.

Met with **Congressman Ted Poe** to discuss port infrastructure.

Met with the **Office of Congressman John Thune** to discuss transportation policy issues and discuss Congressman Thune's role as a ranking member on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Met with **Congressman Patrick McHenry** to discuss transportation policy issues and his role as Deputy Whip.

Met with **Congressman Juan Vargas** to discuss housing and homelessness issues.

Met with **HUD Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development Clifford Taffet** to discuss housing and homelessness issues.

Hosted a panel featuring **Rick Gentry, Kris Michell, Lisa Pape, Executive Director, Homeless Programs, Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration; Steve Berg, Vice President for Programs and Policy, National Alliance to End Homelessness; Matthew Doherty, Regional Coordinator, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; and Anthony Love, Director of Community Engagement, Department of Veterans Affairs** to discuss housing and homelessness.

Met with **Congressman Duncan Hunter** to discuss housing and homelessness.

Met with the **Office of Senator Barbara Boxer** to discuss transportation and housing policy.

## Legislative and Small Business Advocacy

### Quick Look

**Positions Taken** – 5 bills

**Opposed Legislation** – 0 bills

**Supported Legislation** – 5 bills currently pending

### Small Businesses

Supported **H.R. 3115 (Kuster): Small Business Growth Through Exports Act of 2013**, which would promote export efforts by amending the Small Business Jobs Act to extend and expand the State Trade and Export Program through FY 2016. On September 17, 2013 this bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business.

Supported **H.R.5154 (Peters): Open Technology Work to More Businesses Act**, which would get more start-ups involved in the federal contract bidding process by directing the Administrator of the Small Business Administration and the Administrator of General Services to make rules to streamline and simplify the registration system used by small businesses. On July 17, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business.

Supported **S.550 (Risch): Small Business Investment Company Modernization Act of 2013**, which would improve small business ventures by increasing the maximum amount of outstanding leverage for two or more commonly-controlled small business investment companies from \$225 million to \$350 million, allowing small businesses to take out more loans to renovate, pay bills, and invest in new ideas. On March 13, 2013, this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

## **Taxation**

Supported **H.R.5636 (Peters): Cut REDTAPE Act**, which would help small businesses streamline tax paperwork and reduce duplicative tax assessments by allowing small businesses to file estimated income tax returns once a year rather than quarterly, as currently required. On September 18, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Supported **H.R.5637 (Peters): Consumer Debt Forgiveness Tax Relief Act of 2014**, which would amend the tax code to expand the scope of consumer debt forgiveness to include anyone whose transaction that resulted in debt was primarily for the purpose of personal, family, or household reasons, with a cap of \$2,500. On September 18, 2014 this bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

## **U.S. Trade Expansion**

Supported **H.R.3830 (Camp): Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014**, which is the first half of a legislative package that would enhance United States international trade by reviving and amending existing Trade Promotion Authority legislation to establish Congressional trade negotiating objectives, enhance consultation requirements for trade negotiations, and provide for consideration of trade agreements. On January 9, 2014 this bill was triple-referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the House Committee on Rules, and the House Committee on Budget.

Supported **S.1900 (Baucus): Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014**, which is the second half of a legislative package that would enhance United States international trade by reviving and amending existing Trade Promotion Authority legislation to establish Congressional trade negotiating objectives, enhance consultation requirements for trade negotiations, and provide for consideration of trade agreements. On January 9, 2014 this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

## **Washington, D.C. 2014 Meetings**

Held a panel with **U.S. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director of Political Affairs and Federation Relations Eileen Braden, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President of Policy for the Institute for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Christopher Guith, and U.S. Chamber Senior Vice President of International Affairs John Murphy** to discuss the 2014 election, energy policy issues, and international trade.

Met with the **White House Business Council** to discuss economic development, education, innovation, and technology.

Hosted a briefing by the **No Labels Coalition**, a group of moderate federal legislators, to discuss the importance of bipartisanship.

Met with **Senator Dianne Feinstein** to discuss multiple policy issues.

Hosted a panel with **Washington, D.C. Deputy Director of the Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Katie Mathews, California's Director of Federal Affairs Emily Bacque with The Picard Group, and California's Washington, D.C. Government**

***Relations Attorney Lynn Jacquez with CJ Lake, LLC to discuss California's federal goals and priorities.***

*Hosted a meeting with our entire San Diego Congressional delegation, including: **Congresswoman Susan Davis, Congressman Duncan Hunter, Congressman Darrell Issa, Congressman Scott Peters, and Congressman Juan Vargas.***

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